

Message Text

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64

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 L-03 SS-15 NSC-05 SP-02

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FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 519

INFO FAA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

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FAA FOR AIA-210; RIO FOR MONACO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, EAID, VE

SUBJECT: BILATERAL CIVIL AVIATION RELATIONS AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

1. DURING A 2-HOUR MEETING BETWEEN THE DIRECTOR OF CIVIL AERONAUTICS (DCA), BRIGADIER GEN EDGARD SUAREZ MIER Y TERAN, AND EMBOFF VARIUOS ASPECTS OF BILATERAL CIVIL AVIATION RELATIONS BETWEEN VENEZUELA AND THE US WERE DISCUSSED. THE MEETING HAD BEEN REQUESTED BY GEN SUAREZ BECAUSE OF A VERBAL PROTEST BY THE EMBASSY AGAINST DCA REFUSAL TO GRANT AUTHORIZATION FOR TWO EXTRA FREIGHTFLIGHTS BY PAN AMERICAN WORLD AIRWAYS.

2. WHILE GEN SUAREZ AT FIRST INSISTED THAT VIASA HAS SUFFICIENT CARGO CARRYING CAPACITY TO HANDLE FREIGHT ACCUMULATING BEYOND THAT NORMALLY CARRIED BY SCHEDULED FLIGHTS, EMBOFF INSISTED THAT THIS IS NOT THE CASE AND THAT FURTHERMORE THE EFFORTS OF THE AIRLINE'S PROMOTION DEPARTMENTS AND THE WISHES OF THE FREIGHT OWNERS SHOULD BE PREVAILING AND NOT A PROTECTIONIST POSITION ADOPTED BY DCA. GEN SUAREZ FINALLY GAVE INSTRUCTIONS TO GIVE AUTHORIZATION FOR THE 2 FLIGHTS IN QUESTION.

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3. EMBOFF THEN USED THIS OPPORTUNITY TO IMPRESS UPON GEN SUAREZ AGAIN THE FACT THAT VIASA IS ABLE TO FLY EXTRA SECTIONS ON ITS ROUTES TO US WITHOUT PRIOR PERMIT. ALSO, HE REMINDED THE GEN THAT DUE TO THE UPCOMING CHRISTMAS SEASON COMBINED WITH PORT CONGESTION, AIR FREIGHT VOLUME WILL INCREASE FAR BEYOND THE NORMAL AND THAT HIS OFFICE

SHOULD LIBERALIZE ITS POLICY WITH REGARD TO CHARTERS AND EXTRA FREIGHT

FLIGHTS TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE FACT THAT VENEZUELAN IMPORTERS AND CONSUMERS WILL BE THE ONLY ONES TO SUFFER FROM A RESTRICTIVE POLICY.

4. GEN SUAREZ AGREED AND SUGGESTED A MEETING IN HIS OFFICE BETWEEN VIASA AND PANAM OFFICIALS TO DISCUSS THE CHRISTMAS TRAFFIC. HE SUGGESTED THAT HE ON THE VENEZUELAN SIDE AND THE EMBASSY AVIATION ADVISOR ON THE OTHER SIDE SHOULD BE PRESENT AT THE MEETING BUT ONLY AS OBSERVERS. HE ADDED THAT IT IS HIS OPINION, ALTHOUGH NOT THAT OF HIS CHIEF OF AIR TRANSPORT DEPT, THAT GOVTS SHOULD TRY TO STAY OUT OF PROBLEMS WHICH AIRLINES MIGHT BE ABLE TO SOLVE AMONG THEMSELVES, PROVIDED LEGAL ASPECTS AND BILATERAL AGREEMENT CONDITION ARE MET.

5. THE EMBASSY INFORMED THE LOCAL MANAGING DIRECTOR OF PAN AMERICAN WORLD AIRWAYS OF THIS SUGGESTION. HE EXPRESSED INTEREST IN ARRANGING SUCH A MEETING.

6. GEN SUAREZ THEN REQUESTED LONG-TERM TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE BY THE FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION IN THE FIELDS OF MANAGEMENT, NAVIGATIONAL AIDS AND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A BS. 400 MILLION AIRSPACE

CONTROL PROJECT. EMBOFF ASSURED HIM OF FAA'S WILLINGNESS TO PROVIDE SUCH ASSISTANCE AND EXPLAINED TO HIM THE REQUIREMENT FOR A MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT AND PAYMENT PROCEDURES. DETAILS WILL BE DISCUSSED DIRECTLY WITH FAA AS SOON AS GEN SUAREZ' WRITTEN REQUEST FOR SUCH ASSISTANCE IS RECEIVED.

7. THE DCA MENTIONED THAT THERE HAS BEEN AN OFFER BY AMIXED PRIVATE GOVT GROUP FROM FRANCE FOR NAVIGATION AIDS MAINTENANCE AND FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN GENERAL. HE REVEALED THAT THIS OFFER IS NOT TO HIS LIKING BECAUSE STRONG IMPLICATIONS ARE MADE THAT, WHILE THE COST FOR THE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IS LOW, THE FRENCH GOVT WOULD LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EXPECT PURCHASES FOR RECOMMENDED EQUIPMENT TO BE MADE FROM FRANCE. SHLAUDEMAN

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
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